

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of fire department operations. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and fire suppression tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, performing rescue work, driving and operating fire apparatus and equipment, and maintaining fire department vehicles and equipment. Employees of this class perform rescue work by assisting victims of fires and providing emergency medical care to the sick or injured at the emergency scene. Firefighters/Operators participate in areas concerning pre-fire planning, inspections and fire prevention. Employees of this class receive specific instructions for most duties, but have the authority to work independently in certain designated areas, and are directly supervised by a Fire Captain. This class ranks immediately below that of Fire Captain.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue tasks such as connecting, carrying, and operating hose lines; directing fire streams; forcible entry; ventilation; and using portable breathing apparatus or air pack, ladders, lines, and other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Responds to medical emergency calls such as heart attacks, births, poison ingestion, drug overdose, drowning, and other emergencies. Examines victims for signs of injury or medical alert tag and determines the nature and extent of the injury and administers advanced first aid and emergency care. Cuts or pries open vehicles or machinery to free persons trapped. Notifies dispatcher for additional medical help when needed. Performs duties of superior officer at emergency scene in his absence.

Operates or rides in fire apparatus to and from fire or emergency scene. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Ensures a timely response to the emergency scene by taking shortest route available using resources of maps or memory. Evaluates navigational problems such as narrow alleys or structural impasses and determines a means of entrance and egress. Stabilizes apparatus using truck jacks, outriggers, or wheel chocks. Positions apparatus and connects hose lines to water supply source. Determines the number and length of required hose lines.

Evaluates smell and color of smoke and effects of environmental conditions to determine appropriate procedures to extinguish fire. Observes burning structure and locates and extinguishes fire source, hidden fires and hot spots. Listens and relays orders as required at fire emergency scene. Observes burning structures in order to determine location of source and safety for firefighting crews. Notifies officer in charge of new information on conditions, life hazards, or exposures at scene of the emergency. Determines the number of required hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Operates pumper to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Calculates required water flow, friction loss, and discharge pressures necessary for fire suppression. Operates and controls portable, fixed, or large-caliber water streams. Observes and responds to possible changes of fireground conditions including fire victims, water supplies, and fire exposure.

Wedges or clamps sprinkler heads after fire is extinguished to shut off flow of water, resets alarms and restores sprinkler systems. Performs salvage operations necessary to protect property, using covers, tarps, or other materials. Carries or removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Picks up water after fire is extinguished using appropriate method. Constructs catch-alls to trap and dispose of water. Removes debris and charred waste. Shores up or tears down weak and dangerous structural components. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of arson. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of suspected arson. Informs officer in charge of suspected arson. Observes spectators for suspicious behavior.

Draws preplanning maps and diagrams. Participates in pre-fire planning, including gathering and studying information regarding types of occupancy and structure, building layout, hydrant location, and hazardous materials storage. Updates hydrant maps and vital building books. Inspects fire hydrants, conducts flow tests, and periodically flushes hydrants to remove rust and sediment. Inspects smoke and heat detector devices in public and private properties. Participates in fire prevention and fire inspection tasks such as studying the district to become familiar with the location of fire hydrants or water lines, exposures, type of occupancy, and related duties. Conducts prevention inspection of residences.

Studies and maintains proficiency in the procedures for special emergencies. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Acts to contain hazardous material spills or control spread. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior

officer.

Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, hand tools, portable breathing apparatus, turn-out equipment, ladders, fire extinguishers, or related equipment. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Inspects tools for damage or to determine if any tools are missing, and makes report. Completes minor repairs to equipment and tools. Maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using checklist or knowledge of equipment.

Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws and regulations related to performance of work. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, location of streets, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Monitors and gathers information of conditions affecting station zone of response. Attends and participates in assigned training drills either as an individual or as a member of a group. Provides "on the job training" as required.

Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds such as cleaning floors and windows, emptying trash cans, changing bed linens, cutting grass and performing other minor maintenance duties. Assists in preparing meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at emergency scene, receiving and responding to questions and complaints from the public, and providing information to the public concerning the work of the fire department. Receives telephone calls and provides necessary information or directions. Refers calls to appropriate personnel or agency. Assists visitors at the station. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public. Works with local youth groups and other community groups, delivering lectures or demonstrations on fire prevention principles, including fire hazards and appropriate safeguards. Completes any forms, records, or reports as required.

Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below must

be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Must have a high school diploma or a valid certificate of equivalency issued by a state department of education.

Must have a valid driver's license.

Must not be less than eighteen (18) years of age.